

Top Secret



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

RECENT ACTIVITIES IN NORTH VIETNAM SOUTH OF THE 20TH
PARALLEL (28 OCTOBER - 3 NOVEMBER 1968)

Top Secret

November 1968

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
5 November 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Recent Activities in North Vietnam
South of the 20th Parallel
(28 October-3 November)

Summary

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Enemy logistics activities up to the bombing halt continued at about the same levels of the past few weeks. Limited opportunities for observation showed truck traffic to be well below the average levels noted since 1 April. Maritime activity was at about average levels, and supply movements [redacted] continued at their recent high levels. [redacted]

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Preliminary and limited data do not show any unusual changes in logistics activity since the bombing halt. [redacted] relatively high levels of traffic moving into Laos. The North Vietnamese have been quick to carry out road repair activities in Route Package I. [redacted] anti-aircraft guns apparently are being deployed to Laos, but it is not possible at this time to judge the magnitude of this deployment.

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Note: This memorandum was produced solely by CIA. It was prepared jointly by the Office of Economic Research and the Office of Current Intelligence and was coordinated with the Director's Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs.

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Laos would indicate an unusually sharp increase in
logistics activity.

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POL Pipeline

1. The North Vietnamese have added 2½ more miles to a branch of the POL pipeline south of the key Linh Cam ferry. This new extension parallels Route 15 and will apparently terminate at a large dispersed POL storage area at the junction of Route 15 and 152, a distance of about 10 miles.

Truck Traffic

2. Truck sightings [redacted] continued to be well below the weekly average noted since 1 April, and most sightings consisted of only one or two trucks. Poor weather again hampered aerial observation, however, and unquantifiable pilot reports of truck sightings suggest that truck activity may have been greater than that reflected in the tabulation below.

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	<u>Trucks</u>			
	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>De- stroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>	<u>Effective Losses a/</u>
This week b/ (28 Oct- 1 Nov -- 5 days)	178	30	32	30
Last week (21-27 Oct -- 7 days)	178	35	17	30
Weekly average (since 1 Apr)	584	108	66	98

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b. Preliminary data.

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4. [REDACTED]

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reporting that indicates a continued high level of truck traffic into Laos. [REDACTED] indicates that the North Vietnamese have been quick to take the measures necessary to repair the major lines of communication in Route Package I that lead into the Laotian Panhandle. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] showed that four trucks pulling 37/57-mm antiaircraft guns were headed south toward Laos. It is not possible at this time to judge if this portends a major strengthening of antiaircraft defenses in Laos.

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Watercraft

5. [REDACTED] continued slightly below the weekly average noted since 1 April, although significant watercraft activity was [REDACTED] of two important water routes near Thanh Hoa -- on the Song Ma from the mouth of the river to the Song Mai Canal and on the Song Mai Canal itself. About 200 watercraft were detected on these two routes, including several large steel-hull barges and five LCM's.

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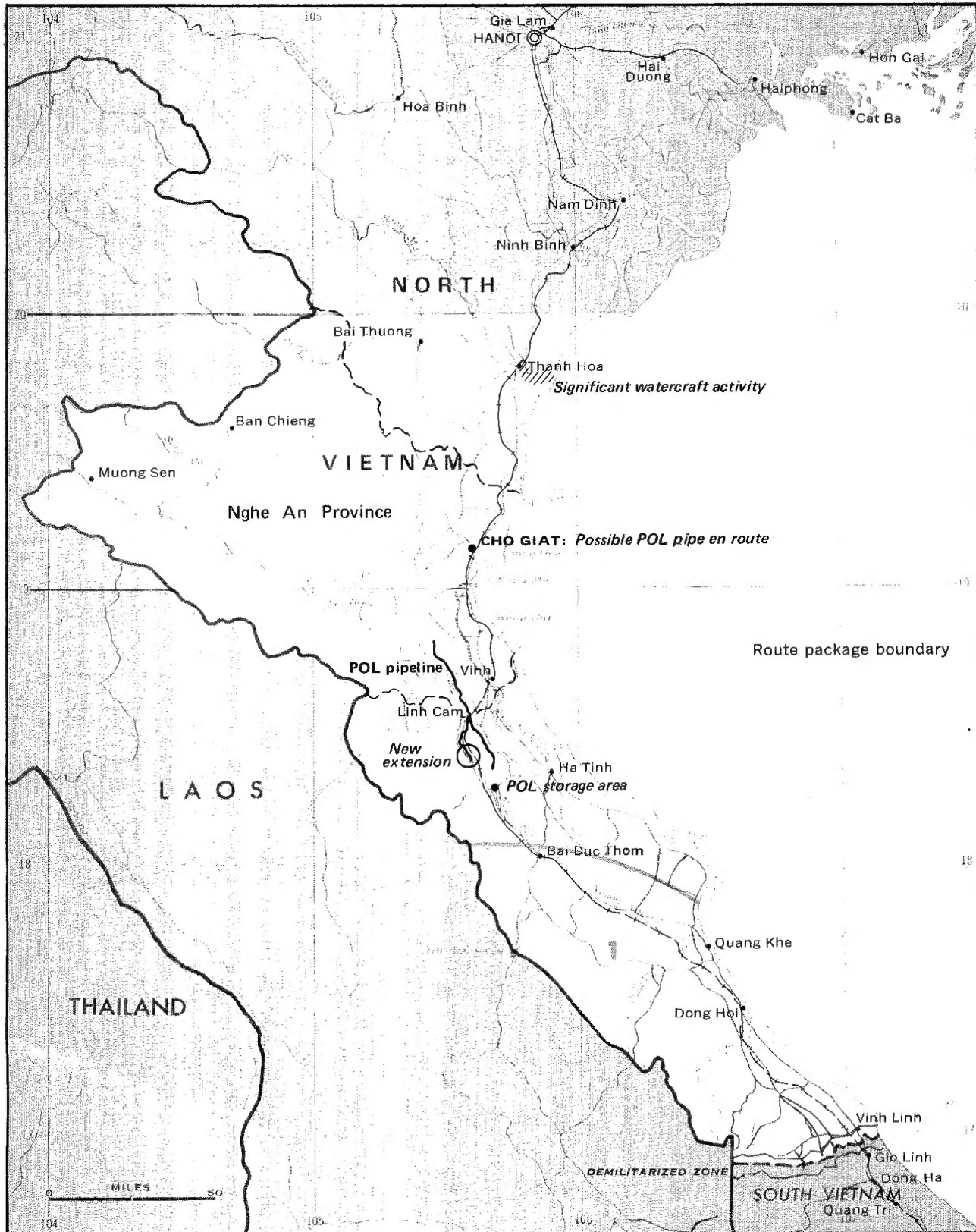
Air Operations

11. There were no indications of enemy air activity south of the 20th Parallel during the past week.

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(28 October - 3 November 1968)



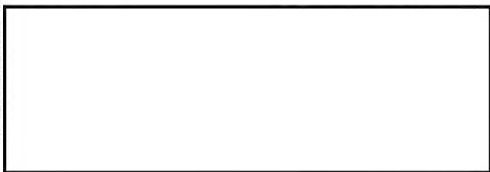
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